



FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1878.

## HARRISBURG LETTER.

HARRISBURG, April 15, 1878.  
To the Editor of the Compiler.—The House met on Monday evening, and after the usual formal work, considered the bill extending the jurisdiction of justices of the peace, which provides that magistrates, justices of the peace and aldermen shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the courts of common pleas of all actions arising from contracts, either express or implied, and of all actions of trespass or robbery and conversion wherein the sum demanded does not exceed \$200, and provides for the empounding of cattle for six persons to try such cases—and after discussing the bill two hours, the House adjourned. It was further considered and amended on Tuesday, and laid over for final action.

The Senate was in session on Tuesday morning, but transacted no business of interest to your people.

DOUGLASS FIELD appointed James G. Knight, of Wisconsin, to be his assistant, speaker of the House of Representatives, vice S. C. Denovan, of Ohio, resigned. Mr. Knight was a Union soldier, and served four years in the Third Wisconsin regiment.

The proposition to have biennial sessions of Congress meets with a good deal of favor. Biennial sessions are the rule in no less than twenty-six out of the thirty-eight states of the union. The New York Assembly, by a vote of 75 to 50, has voted in favor of biennial sessions.

It is the Philadelphia *North American*, one of the most orthodox of Republican sheets, that has the following to say of the proposed Republican legislation:

"...over four days have been spent in debate on this bill. Having this session, which would not be so bad if the legislature had done the State any practical good whatever; but the bill has been a mere farce, and has been a source of infinite irritation before it got through, before it, but the only measures that command any active support, or enlisted the public's sympathy, are those which will be of private gain rather than the public welfare. If the Legislature has fully determined to stay at the expense of the intervention meet it; it at least try to do so in such a way that the party will not have to apologize for its continued existence."

"GATH," in a letter to the *Philadelphia Times* from New York, April 12th, says:

"The business men, whose interests are closely identified with the fact that we will have another session of the Democratic Senate and Congress, are now in full force, and are doing their best to get the bill passed.

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"An act to enable defendants in all criminal cases to testify as witnesses, and when two or more defendants are jointly indicted to have the right to demand separate trials, was supported by Mr. Steinmetz, of Lancaster, in a short speech.

Mr. Sprung said that as the world was progressing, it was right that the mouths of defendants should be open under the solemnity of an oath. He had enough faith in his fellowmen to believe that the law would work well; it was an act of humanity, of justice and of right. The law was in operation in other states, and well, and he could see no reason why the people of Pennsylvania should not have the benefit of its workings.

The bill was passed finally and goes to the Senate for concurrence.

An act for the protection of sheep and lambs of dogs in the different counties of this commonwealth, was amended and goes over for final passage.

An act to more clearly define the duties of scales of weights and measures was passed.

An act to ascertain and appoint fees to be received by the clerks, coroners, probate judges, clerks of the several courts, registrars of wills and recorders of deeds of this commonwealth, except in counties containing over 10,000 inhabitants or less than 10,000 inhabitants, was passed finally.

An act to revise, amend and consolidate existing laws for the assessment of municipal taxes and county and township rates and levies, was after an hour's discussion, amended and had over for final passage.

The Senate was engaged on Wednesday in the consideration of purely local bills, and the House of bills on second reading; among them, the following passed:

A supplement to the act to prevent the manner in which courts may divide boroughs into wards, approved May 14, 1874.

An act fixing seventy-six pounds as the standard weight of a bushel of bituminous coal.

An act to establish boards of arbitration to settle all questions of wages and other matters of variance between employers and employees.

An act authorizing the appointment of women prison inspectors.

Also a number of appropriation bills were passed second reading.

On Thursday the House spent the morning session in discussing the free pipe bill, and in the afternoon considered bills purely local in character.

In the Senate the bill to define the terms and usage of the titles of members of cities of the like class came up on first reading, and after a lengthy discussion, passed by a vote of 28 to 16.

The Senate was all Republicans.

The bill to provide for the division of counties of this commonwealth and the erection of new counties therefrom, passed finally, and will go to the governor, and we may soon be able to speak of the new county of Lackawanna.

Friday morning in the Senate a number of bills were reported from committees, and among them the following bills passed:

POLETTES AND ROQUETTE.—in regard to the abolition and removal of the royalists and nobility.

An act to extend to park, ginn and private associations the rights and privileges of camp-meeting associations, as an act empowering camp-meeting associations to employ a police force.

To the House, after reports of committees, the Senate resolution providing for the trial adjournment on March 25, 1878, was referred to the House Committee on ways and means, and on May 2, was called up and a motion made to refer to the General Committee. This provided that the trial adjournment be referred to the Committee on ways and means, and that the committee be directed to make a report to the Senate.

This was done, and the Senate adjourned.

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THE CINCINNATI INQUIRER.—Ben Butler appeared yesterday as the only surviving representative of the "bloody shirt." It is a significant fact that the appeal was for an office.

VICTOR HYDE says that "there are moments in time when, in a man's life, the attitude of the body, the soul is upon him." Whereupon, the Boston Post notes that Hugo stolt that true.

Moses W. FIELD, ex-congressman, who was never distinguished except for a fight which he invariably won in the House, has died at his home in Michigan town, in which he resides at last week's election, and was beaten by his Democratic competitor.

NEW YORK TIMES.—The transaction of the trial of the people's chief witness, to watch the transition of the professedly unbiased Washington, from our party to another, according to his concept of political emergencies, was well done, and the trial of the case, in the Democratic breeze may well be remembered, and concluding, as it did.

You're told to dig, you're told to dig, they see no hope, but you're told to dig, in this pitiful self-excitement.

POLITICAL.—Says the Cincinnati Enquirer: "Ben Butler appeared yesterday as the only surviving representative of the 'bloody shirt.' It is a significant fact that the appeal was for an office."

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The Philadelphia *North American*, which has been most pleased on the Congressional campaign committee, tells all the interviewers what Democratic districts the Republicans are going to capture in this election.

He adds that they can't be too safe.

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